

REMARKS

The office action of March 22, 2006, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Slater, Jr.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Slater Jr. in view of the patent to Slater '480.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claim 7 and amended claims 1 and 8.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness cited by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Salter, Jr., it can be seen that this patent discloses a seal. Salter, jr. does not disclose a pocket in the seal element 38a, into which the sealing element 38b fits. For this reason Salter, Jr. needs a fastening arrangement in order to hold the sealing element 38b on the sealing element 38a. Salter, Jr. further does not disclose a construction having an annular body provided with at least one outwardly extending lip that rests against and seals a stationary part during rotation of the roll, wherein the annular body comprises at least two parts, wherein a first part rests against a part of the roll, and a second part comprises the at least one outwardly extending lip, wherein the at least one lip is spring-supported, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted

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that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Salter '480 discloses a neck seal. The Examiner combined Salter '480 with Salter Jr. in determining that claim 7 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach the presently claimed invention. The pocket in Salter '480 is not in a further sealing element, but instead is in the bearing housing. The pocket is formed by a portion of the bearing housing 16 and two spring rings 14, 15. Thus, a large number of parts are needed, together with their corresponding complex assembly, to form the pocket for the sealing element 1. The combination does not teach a sealing element that has a pocket in which a further sealing element is insertable, whereby further components are not necessary for connecting the sealing elements together or inserting one element into the pocket of the other.

Furthermore, the combination of references does not teach or suggest, nor do the references provide any motivation to arrive at, a construction having the features recited in the claims presently on file.

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In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Klaus P. Stoffel
Reg. No. 31,668
For: Friedrich Kueffner
Reg. No. 29,482
317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910
New York, New York 10017
(212) 986-3114

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 24, 2006.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: July 24, 2006